of the country. In this regard, the National Policy on the Voluntary Sector — 2007, available on the website of the Planning Commission (*http://www.planningcommission.gov.in/data/ngo/npvo107.pdf*), "affirms the growing need for collaboration with the voluntary sector by the Government, as well as by the private sector, at the local, provincial and national levels." (para 1.2). The National Policy further States that the voluntary sector can play an important role in the development process, particularly through community participation. It is therefore essential that the Government and the Voluntary Sector work together. Where feasible, such partnership may also include other entities such as *panchayati raj* institutions, municipalities, academic institutions and private sector organisations (para 5.1). The Eleventh Plan proposes a strategy for infrastructure development which involves a combined response — an increase in public sector investment in infrastructure and also an increase in private sector investment through some form of public-private partnership (PPP) or directly, where feasible. Emphasis on the PPP in investment for physical infrastructure development is one of the Thrust Areas of the Eleventh Plan. Copy of the National Policy has been forwarded to State/UT Governments and Departments/Ministries concerned for implementing recommendations of the Policy. Many States have initiated steps to operationalize the PPP models.

(c) and (d) Yes, it is a fact that metropolises are lacking in infrastructure to meet the challenge of development. To improve the infrastructure in metropolises, Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December, 2005. There are four components under JNNURM: (A) For 63 Mission Cities: (i) Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) and (ii) Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP); (B) For Non-Mission Cities: (i) Urban Infrastructure Scheme in Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and (ii) Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

Letter regarding Hyderabad Metro

1121. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chairman, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC) has written a letter to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 11th September, 2008 regarding Hyderabad Metro;

(b) if so, the points raised in the letter; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the basis of the letter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A letter dated 11.09.08 from Managing Director, DMRC addressed to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission had been received. The points raised in this letter were broadly on issues relating to the policy of construction and operation of Metro Rail projects in metropolitan cities and some issues pertaining to the Hyderabad Metro Rail Project.

Managing Director, DMRC has been informed that as per the decision taken by Ministry of Urban Development communicated *vide* their letter no. K-14011/01/2005- Metro dated April 26,

2006 that "the urban transport being a State subject, legislation for operation and maintenance of metro rail systems falling within the jurisdiction of a municipal areas could be enacted by the State Government concerned".

The comments received from Hyderabad Metro Rail Corporation were also forwarded to Managing Director, DMRC.

Inter-State projects of NEC

1122. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is yet to clear the two inter-State projects of North Eastern Council (NEC) (i) Strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, (ii) Improvement of NLKB road along with construction of bridges over Lohit and Khabohu river in Assam;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a proposal seeking early in-principle clearance of the above projects has been received by Planning Commission;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry would ensure early in-principle clearance of these two projects which are lingering from the Ninth Plan of NEC; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (e) The proposal for strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science is a State subject. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has asked the State Government to consider the option of funding Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science from any of the following sources, namely, (a) Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (b) from State own resources (c) evolving a mechanism where in NEC and States of the region may fund it jointly.

The proposed bridges over Lohit and Khabohu river in Assam have been identified for phase-II of the NEC Roads.

Pedestrian safety on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

1123. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no safety provision for pedestrians were kept in mind while constructing Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) the names of the contractors who had been awarded the contract of eight-laning of Delhi-Gurgaon stretch of National Highway No. 8 and for tool collection;